

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 SCA-01 DOTE-00

INT-05 FEA-01 CU-02 STR-04 /084 W

----- 061507

R 261210Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9675

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GE, WB, UR

SUBJECT: FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN LIGHT OF RECENT PRESS COMMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING THE TALKS ON THE GDR PACKAGE OFFER, HAD "RUN AGROUND" (FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU, APRIL 19), OR "WERE IN A BLIND ALLEY" (STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, APRIL 23), WE HAVE REVIEWED THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY WITH FRG OFFICIAL CONTACTS CLOSELY INVOLVED.

2. OUR CONTACTS TOLD US THEY CONSIDERED THE PRESS COMMENT UNDULY NEGATIVE. IT WAS TRUE THAT THE RECENT HEAVY SENTENCES IMPOSED IN THE GDR ON WEST GERMANS INVOLVED IN EXFILTRATION ACTIVITIES HAD PRODUCED A TANGIBLE CHILL. HOWEVER, THE TRIALS SHOULD NOT BE BLOWN UP OUT OF PROPORTION. SUCH MATTERS WERE ONLY INCIDENTAL TO THE MAIN WORK OF NEGOTIATION, WHICH WAS GOING
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FORWARD. OUR CONTACTS SAID THERE WOULD BE MANY STORIES

TO THE EFFECT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE "AGROUND" AS THE EXCHANGES CONTINUED. THE OBJECTIVE PROBLEMS, EVEN WITH THE BEST WILL ON BOTH SIDES (WHICH COULD HARDLY BE ASSUMED), WERE CONSIDERABLE.

3. OUR CONTACTS CONFIRMED THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF THE TRANSIT ROADS TALKS WOULD BE HELD APRIL 29. THE NEXT ROUND OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE ON MAY 5. MAY 13 HAD BEEN PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC GLOBAL PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT. THE NEXT ROUND IN THE RAIL TALKS WAS DUE MAY 20. THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO HOLD THE NEXT ROUND ON NON-COMMERCIAL PAYMENTS AFTER THAT, BUT THERE WAS NO FIRM DATE YET. THE POSTAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CONTINUED MAY 28. THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AGREEMENT TALKS WERE RECESSED UNTIL JULY. THE NEXT ROUND IN THE CULTURAL TALKS MIGHT BE HELD AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE, BUT AGAIN, NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED AS YET. EXCHANGES ON EXPLOITATION OF SOFT COAL AND NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS IN THE FRG-GDR BORDER AREAS WERE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.

4. THE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN AGREEMENTS CONTINUED TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM, BUT OUR CONTACTS THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT BE WORKED OUT ON THE LINES OF SEPARATE, ACCOMPANYING STATEMENTS TO BE MADE BY THE GDR AND THE FRG, THE FORMER TO THE EFFECT THAT WEST BERLIN WAS INCLUDED IN A GIVEN CASE TO THE EXTENT THAT SECURITY AND STATUS WERE NOT AFFECTED, THE LATTER THAT MATTERS OF SECURITY AND STATUS WERE NOT AFFECTED.

5. COMMENT: WE GOT THE IMPRESSION OF A LARGE, CONTINUING PROGRAM OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATION BOTH ON THE GDR PACKAGE AND IN OTHER AREAS. OUR CONTACTS WERE NEITHER NOTICEABLY OPTIMISTIC NOR PESSIMISTIC. IT WAS TOO EARLY IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE PACKAGE, THEY SAID, TO KNOW WHAT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS WERE IN THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NEGOTIATION, OR WHAT LINKAGES MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED. THEY MADE THE POINT THAT IN SOME AREAS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE PACKAGE, SUCH AS THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS, THE GDR SIDE

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MAY BE AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF CSCE IN ORDER TO SETTLE POLICY LINES ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. EMBOFFS TOOK THE OCCASION TO REITERATE THAT US SIDE HAS NO BASIC DIFFICULTY WITH SENAT NEGOTIATION WITH GDR TO REOPEN TELTOW CANAL.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRISONERS WELFARE, TRIALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN06777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-0516
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750412/aaaaalid.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, GC, WB, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006